

REMARKS

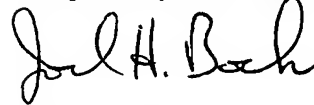
Correction of a drawing error is requested. This is a simple correction of a reference numeral.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 is requested. Claim 1 calls for each handle of a tool to have planar surfaces joined by inner and outer surfaces. Indicia are located on the inner surface of at least one handle. This structure is not shown in Bond 5,421,224. Bond Fig. 8 shows a hand tool with indicia on the handles but the indicia 68 and 69 are not on the inner surface of the handle; they are on the planar surfaces. Bond '224 also has indicia 72 but again it is not on an inner surface of the handle; it is on the end 70 of the handle. Placement of the indicia as called for in claim 1 has a distinct advantage over that of Bond '224, namely, the indicia are not exposed to the ordinary wear and tear resulting from handling of the tool. That is, in normal use a users palm and fingers will contact the planar surfaces of the tool, as well as the outer surfaces. Accordingly, these surfaces will be subject to abrasion that will tend to wear away or obscure the indicia. Further, the planar surfaces and outer surface will have adjacent tools in a tool pouch lodged against them which will cover up the indicia from view. The inner surfaces of the tool are not subject to abrasion or covering. The indicia placed on this location will be more visible to a user because it will not be covered by adjacent tools in a tool pouch and it will not be worn away by abrasion resulting from constant use.

Claim 6 calls for indicia located on a protected surface of at least one of the handles. "Protected surfaces" is defined in paragraph 0008 of the specification as the inner surfaces of the handles. Accordingly, the argument presented above with respect to claim 1 is equally applicable to claim 6. The same is true with respect to claim 11 which casts the invention in method form.

It is submitted that the above amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the application is resubmitted for reconsideration. A favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel H. Bock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joel" being more prominent.

Joel H. Bock

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